



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

TO THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

WE RETURNED from the 35th Annual Convention of the Woman's Auxiliary to the American Medical Association held in San Francisco in June with renewed interest.

Nearly 78,000 members who devote their valuable time and their efforts in support of an established program were represented by some 1,200 registered members including national officers, state presidents, presidents-elect, and state delegates and alternates.

A resume of our accomplishments on the county level as presented to the House of Delegates by state presidents, reaffirmed our conviction that in any undertaking a definite aim must be established and a program planned to support that aim.

We learned that it is not only the California Auxiliary that believes in the ideas and ideals of the American Medical Association, but that we are part of a team of doctors' wives upon whose shoulders rest the obligation of leadership in community health over the entire nation.

Nothing new is added to the program this year. Reevaluation, with special emphasis where needed, and an all-out effort will be placed behind the projects already under development to increase their effectiveness.

The fact that more legislative bills with medicoeconomic implications are introduced to Congress than any other type of legislation is proof of public interest in health.

The county auxiliaries must be kept informed to enable them to render a real community service by sponsoring health forums featuring speakers on medical subjects of local interest and general health education.

The cooperation of the county medical societies is necessary to the educational program. Clearance of speakers on medical subjects and medical legislation through the society is a must. All county auxiliary presidents and program chairmen are repeatedly alerted to check frequently with their county society advisory board and to clear speakers or to obtain speakers through the local Medical Speakers' Bureau.

Our greatest strength is in developing better understanding and public interest, community by community. The combined strength of the 34 counties and seven districts in California was revealed in the collective report of work done and activities participated in as compiled by Mrs. Ofield, our immediate past president. The statistics were a credit to every California unit and, added to the reports of some 1,300 counties as given by the state presidents, the national officers' reports were almost unbelievable.

One report that we are certain you will be interested in was the amount contributed to the American

Medical Education Foundation—nearly \$126,000. We are proud of that feat and we know you are too.

As in all organizations where large numbers of people are concerned, there must be a means of coordination to unify efforts and decide policy. We have our state and national auxiliaries under the direction of our parent societies, the local, state and national medical associations.

In September, our California Auxiliary will hold the regular fall conference of county presidents, presidents-elect, district chairmen, state officers including district councilors, councilors at large and standing and special committee chairmen.

This is a workshop meeting, designed to discuss freely the desires and needs of the individual counties and to arrive at conclusions through which we can continue to be of the most effective service to our societies. With the aid of experienced state officers, past state presidents and members of the California Medical Association, we will become informed on the policies and objectives of auxiliary work through which we produce the results that make for reports such as were given at the recent national convention.

In October the conference of state presidents and presidents-elect with national officers and committee chairmen will be held again in Chicago. The same principle is involved as on the state level, with the result that all officers are indoctrinated with proper procedures and knowledge of policies.

Enthusiasm and respect for the principles of what we are doing is a great motivating force which we gain by the exchange of ideas, and these ideas we pass on to the back-home members who produce the efforts necessary to achieve our goals.

Dr. Gunnar Gundersen, president of the American Medical Association, in his inaugural address said:

"Medicine can play a vitally effective part in bringing reality to the dream of world peace.

"Medicine, despite the designs of politicians or dictators, is above the harsh conflict of ideologies and power politics.

"Medicine, like religion, speaks a universal language which passes all barriers of creed, race, color and nationality. The brightest chapter in the international story since World War II is that on health and medicine.

"As Americans, our first duty is to this country, but as members of a civilization which believes in the brotherhood of man, we also have a duty toward all men who yearn for freedom, dignity, peace and health.

"Physicians in America should never forget their responsibilities to all humanity or neglect their opportunities to promote the brotherhood of man."

MRS. NEWELL JONES

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California Medical Association*